

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheets replace the drawing sheets currently on file and include amendments as follows:

Fig. 2 has been amended to add numeral “200a” and clarify the numerals “N*Iin” and “N*M*Iin”.

Fig. 3 has been amended to remove reference to numeral “Q3” and add numeral “300a”.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets containing Figures 1, 2 and 3 follow page 16 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-20 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 7-11, 13 and 14 have been amended.

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Drawings

The drawings are amended to correct for some labeling errors.

There is no new matter within the amended drawings.

Specification

The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestions.
No new matter has been added.

The claims have been amended to render the specification and drawings clearer and more consistent one with the other.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-17 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite.

The claims are amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112 objections and in accordance with the examiner's suggestions.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akioka et al (Akioka) following the Examiners updated search.

Claim 1 recites “a current path disposed between the first supply voltage port and the coupled first and second base terminals for propagating current therein in response to the input current.” As noted by the Examiner there is no strong motivation to modify or

combine the prior art references to provide the current path between the first supply voltage port and the coupled base terminals. As such Applicant traverses the objection on the grounds that the allowable matter of claim 6 is now incorporated as a limitation within claim 1.

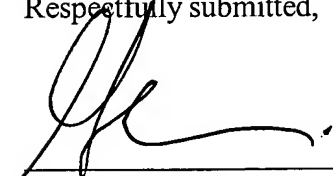
In referring to claims 2, 4-5, and 8-10 the Applicant traverses the objection on the grounds that these claims are dependent upon an amended claim1 that includes allowable subject matter.

No new matter has been added in the amended claims.

Applicant looks forward to receiving favourable reconsideration of the present application.

**Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No: 50-1142.**

Respectfully submitted,



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2 Aug 2006

Date

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